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DLC

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/030,832	02/26/98	HANNA	M 1488.0950001

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HM12/0609

EXAMINER

HAYES, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1645	9

DATE MAILED:

06/09/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/030,832	Applicant(s) Hanna et al
	Examiner Robert C. Hayes	Group Art Unit 1645

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims 1-26 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-9, 12, 14-22 & 25, drawn to isolated nucleic acids that encode ET2 or GABRE polypeptides, vectors and host cells comprising such, as well as methods of producing the polypeptide, classified in Class 435, subclass 96.1.
 - II. Claims 10, 13, 23 & 26, drawn to purified ET2 or GABRE polypeptides, classified in Class 530, subclass 350.
 - III. Claims 11 & 24, drawn to antibodies to ET2 or GABRE polypeptides, classified in Class 530, subclass 387.1.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
Although there are no provisions under the section for "Relation of Inventions" in MPEP 806.05 for inventive groups that are directed to different products; restriction is deemed proper because these products appear to constitute patentably distinct inventions for the following reason:
Groups I-III are directed to products that are physically and functionally distinct that include polypeptides, polynucleotides, and antibodies. All of these products can be prepared by different processes, such as though chemical synthesis or isolation from natural sources using various isolation/purification procedures. For example, the proteins of Group II and antibodies of

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Group III are fundamentally different molecules than the polynucleotide molecules of Group I, which in turn can be used to clone the protein, used in gene therapy, or used to identify cells expressing the protein. Although the antibodies of Group III can be used in isolating the protein of Group II, the antibodies of Group III can be generated by immunizing animals with a small synthetic portion of the full length protein, and can be used diagnostically in other ways, such as in affinity chromatography or in immunoassays, or as therapeutic agents themselves. In contrast, the proteins of Group II can be utilized in making the antibodies of Group III, but not vice versa. Additionally, neither the proteins of Group II nor the antibodies of Group III require the vectors and host cells of Group I, and vice versa. It is pointed out that there is a proper distinction between these groups, since each product is not required in order for the other to exist. Thereby, these groups are distinct and separable for the reasons stated.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, they have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the non-coextensiveness of the search and examination for each group would constitute an undue burden on the examiner to search and consider all the separable groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

4. Please Note: In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-305-3704. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Donald E. Adams, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at Donald.Adams@uspto.gov or 703-308-0570. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Robert Hayes whose telephone number is (703) 305-3132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, and alternate Fridays, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 305-3995. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

RCH

Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.
June 7, 1999

Patricia A. Duffy
PATRICIA A. DUFFY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

PATRICIA A. DUFFY
PRIMARY EXAMINER